## Message Text

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O 271912Z JAN 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES:CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS (CU/ARTS): AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATRE (ACT)

REF: A) MOSCOW 0913, B) STATE 015006, C) MOSCOW 0604, D)STATE 082336

- 1. VISAS SUBMITTED SOVS PRIOR RECEIPT REFTEL A FOR ADVANCE TEAM VISIT FEBRUARY 8-15. MOST DIFFICULT REARRANGE FOR EARLIER ARRIVAL AS (A. SOVS INSIST REQUEST FOR VISA BE SUBMITTED MINIMUM ONE WEBK PRIOR INTENDED DEPARTURE,(B. ACT HAS ADJUSTED ITS SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS TO FIT AROUND FEBRUARY 8-15 DATES.
- 2. SUPAGIN'S OFFER OF DOLLARS TWO THOUSAND AS ACT PER PERFORMANCE FEE ACCEPTABLE DEPT AS OFFER FALLS WITHIN FEE RANGE OUTLINED REFTEL D. THIS FEE HOWEVER TO BE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN DOLLARS (1000) AND EQUIVALENT RUBLES WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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## FULL AMOUNT PAID DIRECTLY TO EMBASSY.

- 3. WE REJECT SUPAGIN'S PROPOSAL PAY RUBLES ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED PER PERFORMANCE WITH BOARD TO BE PAID ACT FROM THIS AMOUNT. SUPAGIN'S EFFORTS COMPARE MONIES EARNED AND SERVICES RECEIVED BY SOV GROUPS IN U.S. WITH WHAT AMERICAN PAG'S RECEIVE IN SOVIET UNION NOT A VIABLE NEGO-TIATING STANCE. INNER WORKINGS OF TWO DIFFICULT SOCIETIES CANNOTBE COMPARED ON AN EOUAL BASIS. SOV GROUPS ARE WORKING IN U.S. THROUGH COMMERCIAL IMPRESARIOS. FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION EMB MIGHT NOTE THAT SOV INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS GET FAR HIGHER FEES THAN DO U.S. AND ALL SOV ATTRACTIONS GET FAR LONGER TOURS. THUS IT IS FRUITLESS FOR GOSK DRAW INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS BETWEEN TWO SEPARATE AND DIFFERENT NEGOTIATING TRACKS. PER PERFORMANCE FEES OF AMERICAN PAG'S AND INCLUDING SERVICES REQUESTED FROM GOSK DO NOT RPT NOT REPRESENT TOTAL COST OF PAG'S TOURS TO SOVIET UNION. GOSK'S PREOCCUPATION WITH COST FIGURES IN ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE BETTER BARGAINING POSITIONS DILUTES INTENT OF EXCHANGES AGREEMENT: IT IS A TACTIC CALCULATED PUT EMB IN WEAK NEGOTIATING POSITION ONCE DRAWN INTO COMPARATIVE COST FIGURES WHICH NOT RELEVANT TO EACH OTHER. THEREFORE URGE EMB TAKE POSITION THAT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR DIRECT COMPARISON OF COSTS. ANY COST FIGURES WE MAY BE ABLE OBTAIN ON MOSCOW ARTS THEATER AND OTHERS TO BE FURNISHED EMB AS BACKGROUND MATERIAL ONLY AND NOT RPT NOT FOR COMPARISON OF BUDGETS.
- 4. DEPT NOT PREPARED ASSIST GOSK IN ABSORBING ANY INTERNAL EXPENSES FOR ACT TOUR. ALMA-ATA OR ANY NORTHERN CITY IN THE SOVIET UNION ACCEPTABLE AS THIRD CITY IN FOUR WEEK TOUR OF ACT. ADVISE. KISSINGER

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To: MOSCOW LENINGRAD

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